

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 15, 1999

CONTACT: Paul Verke**EXHIBIT FEATURES ART WORKS BY PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA****SOUTHSIDE ART CENTER AND THE CREATIVE ARTS CENTER HIGHLIGHT
NATIONAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

SACRAMENTO – In recognition of October as National Disabilities Awareness Month, the Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Mental Health are sponsoring an art exhibit in the Atrium of the Bateson Building in downtown Sacramento.

The exhibit showcases the work from artists in two nationally recognized art programs in the Sacramento area that serve adults with developmental challenges. The Southside Art Center of Sacramento began in 1987, and currently provides services to 138 adults in three programs. The Creative Arts Center of Marysville began in 1992, and currently has about 38 developmentally disabled clients from the Marysville area. Both programs share the philosophy of empowerment—giving an individual with developmental disabilities the ability to make choices that result in the individual having control over his/her life.

These two programs have created an exciting exhibit featuring drawings, wood working, painting, ceramics, sculptures and mixed media.

"We believe in engaging people in the process of living, creating and working as members of our community. The art program is an important part of helping our clients learn to express themselves in constructive and productive ways," said Matt Rhoades of Southside Art Center.

The artwork will be on display from October 15 through November 5, 1999, in the Atrium of the Bateson building, 1600 Ninth Street, in downtown Sacramento. The public is welcome to come and enjoy this display from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"